



NIRB File No.: 12MN036

December 23, 2015

Back River Distribution List

Sent via email

Re: Notice of Final Hearing and Intervenor Application Deadline for the NIRB's Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's Back River Gold Mine Project Proposal

Dear Parties:

Please find enclosed the Notice of Hearing for the Nunavut Impact Review Board's (NIRB or Board) Review of Sabina Gold & Silver Corporation's (Sabina or the Proponent) proposed Back River Gold Mine project proposal (NIRB File No. 12MN036). Please note that formal notice will also be appearing in local newspapers in the coming weeks in English, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, and French. A copy of the notice has also been posted online to the NIRB's public registry (with translated copies to follow) and can be accessed at the following location:

<http://ftp.nirb.ca/02-REVIEWS/ACTIVE%20REVIEWS/12MN036-SABINA-BACK%20RIVER/02-REVIEW/>.

Dates of Final Hearing

As stated in its December 19, 2014 Pre-hearing Conference Decision, the Board, in consultation with community members, parties, and the Proponent, decided that the Final Hearing would be held in the community of Cambridge Bay, and would involve a combination of technical and non-technical sessions. In accordance with the availability of meeting venue and logistical support, the NIRB is pleased to announce the following schedule for the Final Hearing for its Review:

LOCATION	DATE	TIME*	SCHEDULE
Cambridge Bay, Community Hall	April 25-26, 2016	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Technical Presentations
	April 27, 2016	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Technical Presentations
	April 28, 2016	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Community Roundtable
	April 29, 2016	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Community Roundtable
	April 30, 2016	9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Community Roundtable and Closing Statements

***NOTE: The NIRB may, in its discretion, extend any day session into an evening session if required.**

While the agenda for the Final Hearing will be circulated to all parties in advance and may be adjusted as necessary at the discretion of the NIRB's Chairperson, the schedule for these proceedings has been arranged such that the first portion of the Public Hearing will consist of formal proceedings, including technical presentations, while the latter portion will allow for more directed community engagement through community roundtable sessions. An evening session will be held to ensure members of the community also have adequate opportunity to participate outside of regular working hours.

Final Hearing Logistics & Details

The Final Hearing will be conducted in accordance with the NIRB's Rules of Procedure (the Rules)¹ as determined in the Board's Pre-hearing Conference Decision. Proceedings will be facilitated by the NIRB's Board Members, with support from NIRB staff and legal counsel as required. A stenographer will be present at the Hearing to record an official transcript, and simultaneous English-Inuinnaqtun, English-Inuktitut, and English-T'licho interpretation will be provided through all proceedings, while French interpretation may also be provided if requested at least 14 days in advance of the Hearing. Access to the full public registry will be made available during proceedings.

Intervenor Status

The enclosed Notice of Hearing provides direction to parties wishing to apply for formal intervenor status for the hearing proceedings. For the benefit of all the parties we are providing the following additional information:

1. Under the Board's Rules, authorizing agencies² have full standing throughout the Review and are NOT required to file a request to be granted intervenor status.
2. Part III, Rule 22 of the Rules also recognizes that there may be parties who have not been involved throughout the Review, but who may, upon receiving the formal Notice of Hearing, determine that they wish to apply for intervenor status at the Hearing. For these potential intervenors, the Board requires the completion of an Application Form to request intervenor status (**enclosed**) to be filed with the Board on or before **February 15, 2016**.
3. The Board will review and consider completed Application Forms and may:
 - a. circulate the Application with a request for comments;
 - b. decide that more information is required or request that the Application be modified as directed by the Board;
 - c. decide that the intervention request is not granted because the submission is frivolous, vexatious or of little merit; or
 - d. grant the intervention request and notify all parties of that decision.

¹ NIRB Rules of Procedure (September, 2009) are available from the NIRB's online registry from the following link: <http://ftp.nirb.ca/06-RULES/>.

² Defined under Part I, Rule. 2.1 to include any Canadian or Nunavut government department or agency, Designated Inuit Organization (DIO) or any other body that has the authority to issue a permit, lease, licence or grant approval to a proponent to conduct some physical work or physical activity in relation to a project proposal.

4. Given the approaching Final Hearing and the desire for all parties to have adequate notice and time to prepare for their participation, the Board will endeavour to take the steps outlined in Item 3 as promptly as possible and expects to make its determination and issue a letter accepting or rejecting each of the intervention requests received on or before **February 17, 2016**.
5. All regulatory authorities and parties granted intervenor status will have until **March 7, 2016** to file their final written submissions for the Final Hearing with the NIRB.

Summary

In closing, as we move closer to the Final Hearing for the NIRB's Review of the Back River Gold Mine project proposal, the Board thanks all parties for their continued active engagement in the Review process. Additional details regarding the Hearing will be provided as they become available.

As a reminder to all parties, the NIRB will accept applications for Intervenor Status until **5:00 p.m. MST, February 15, 2016**.

The NIRB reminds all parties that the deadline for final written submissions is **5:00 p.m. MST, March 7, 2016**.

Should you have questions regarding the upcoming Final Hearing for the NIRB's consideration of the Back River Gold Mine project, including the NIRB's Rules of Procedure and intervenor status applications, please contact the Ryan Barry, Executive Director at (867) 983-4608 or via email at rbarry@nirb.ca.

Sincerely,



Mark Ings
Acting Executive Director
Nunavut Impact Review Board

cc: Matthew Pickard, Sabina Gold & Silver Corp.

Enclosed (4): Notice of Public Hearing (*December 23, 2015*)
Application Form Requesting Intervenor Status (English, Inuinnaqtun, and Inuktitut)